The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 12, 2002

Greetings:

The Department of Energy (DOE) is committed to increase contract opportunities for small businesses and expand outreach efforts in the small business community.

In fiscal year (FY) 2000 and FY 2001, the Department sponsored an annual Small Business and Prime Contractors conference, both of which were successful. With each conference we reviewed lessons learned and used them to improve the next conference. I am pleased to invite you to attend the Department's Third Annual Conference on May 19-22, 2002, in Orlando, Florida.

Our commitment to engage businesses, whether 8(a), women-owned, small disadvantaged, or businesses in other categories, is even stronger this year due to the impact of the September 11, 2001, attack on the small business community. We believe it is in the best interest of the Nation to work even more diligently toward providing more contract opportunities to small businesses; providing better procurement tools to assist small businesses; expanding and or refining the procurement tools currently in place to allow more flexibility in specific small business programs; and making the overall system more user-friendly to the small business community.

The Department will continue to play an instrumental role in helping small businesses successfully develop and bring to market innovative new technologies and energy disciplines, which in turn will benefit us.

The Third Annual Conference will bring together representatives of the Department, its prime contractors, our network of National Laboratories, as well as several other Federal agencies, to provide valuable information about business lines and upcoming contracting opportunities, not only at DOE, but at other agencies.

I urge you to participate in this conference and encourage you to register online for the Third Annual Small Business Conference. Please check our website located at http://www.smallbusiness-outreach.doe.gov/annual.

Sincerely,

Spencer Abraham